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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2104th meeting**
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 29 January 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Mezmur

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Closure of the session

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.
** No summary records were issued for the 2100th to 2103rd meetings.

This record is subject to correction.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Closure of the session

1. **The Chair** said that, as at 29 January 2016, there were 196 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As at the same date, a total of 162 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, while 171 States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Twenty-four States parties had ratified the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

2. During the session, the Committee had considered 18 reports from 14 countries in dual chambers: 14 under the Convention — Brunei Darussalam, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe in Chamber A, and Benin, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Maldives, Oman and Peru in Chamber B; 2 under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict — Latvia and Peru; and 2 under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography — also Latvia and Peru. He said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations that had been drawn up for those States parties.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. The Committee had reviewed the information it had received under the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure. In the context of the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/268, the Committee had continued its discussions on offering the simplified reporting procedure to States parties in 2016.

5. Work on the four general comments currently under development had continued. The first was on public spending to realize children's rights, the second on adolescents and the third on children in street situations. The fourth general comment, which was being developed in cooperation with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, focused on children in the context of migration. Preparations for the Committee's next day of general discussion, on children and the environment, had also continued.

6. During the session, the Committee had held its biennial meeting with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and had adopted its thirteenth biennial report to the General Assembly, which covered its activities from the sixty-sixth to the seventy-first session. The programme of work for the seventy-second session would be made available to the public in the coming weeks.

7. **Ms. Sandberg** (Rapporteur), noting that the Committee had had a busy session, said that during the session the Committee had held its annual informal meeting with States. The topics discussed had been the simplified reporting procedure, reporting under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, general comments and any other issues the States had wished to discuss. The meeting had been attended by representatives of 70 States.

8. At its biennial meeting with UNICEF, the two topics discussed had been synergies for strengthened accountability in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention, and challenges, opportunities and good practices in the implementation of the Convention.

9. The various working groups had continued their work on the new general comments, the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure, the simplified

reporting procedure and other issues. The general comment on public spending had been finalized. A second draft would be studied and commented on by Committee members in the coming months, and a third draft would be presented at the next session for discussion and adoption. The second draft of the general comment on adolescents would probably be shared with States once it was ready. A number of meetings with experts had been held to discuss the general comment on children in street situations, while work on the joint general comment on children in the context of migration was still at an early stage.

10. Briefings and meetings with partners had been held during the session, and Committee members had participated in a wide range of events since the closure of the seventieth session. The Chair had presented the Committee's annual report to the Third Committee and had taken part in several international events. Ms. Ayoubi Idrissi had participated in a high-level colloquium on adoption, held in Monaco, and a conference about the role of doctrine on the jurisprudence of the Moroccan Court of Cassation in matters of parentage.

11. Mr. Cardona Llorens had made visits to Chile and Mexico to follow up on the Committee's recommendations and had participated in a number of forums, colloquiums and side events. Mr. Gastaud had attended a meeting with the Council of Europe to evaluate the child participation tool, as well as the colloquium on adoption hosted by Monaco. Mr. Nelson had served as a guest speaker and facilitator at a regional training session on treaty body reporting in the Pacific and had made a presentation to the Government of Samoa on ratification of the Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

12. Ms. Oviedo Fierro had been invited to a meeting in Poland of victims of abuse by priests and had met via Skype with a Latin American network of civil society organizations. Ms. Muhamad Shariff had attended a consultation on public spending on child rights in the Philippines and a workshop on child monitoring in Viet Nam. Ms. Aldoseri had participated in a video call with children from the conflict area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo along with Ms. Sandberg herself, who had also participated in the Third Children's Issues Forum in Hong Kong, China. Information on the activities of other Committee members would be included in the Committee's report.

13. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report on its seventy-first session.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. After the customary exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared closed the seventy-first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 3.25 p.m.